

Listing of the Claims

1. **(currently amended)** A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide preform, comprising:

forming a preform including a first portion and a second portion, the second portion including a dopant therein, and wherein the first portion exhibits a density greater than the second portion; and

stripping the dopant from at least a section of the second portion during sintering.
2. **(original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the dopant stripped from the section originated from dopant migration in a previous step.
3. **(original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the dopant in the second portion comprises fluorine.
4. **(original)** The method of claim 3 wherein the dopant in the second portion comprises an average weight percent of at least 0.3% fluorine substantially throughout the second portion prior to the step of stripping.
5. **(original)** The method of claim 4 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent.
6. **(original)** The method of claim 5 wherein the stripping agent comprises a compound including an element selected from a group consisting of VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.

7. **(original)** The method of claim 6 wherein the stripping agent is selected from a group including phosphorous oxychloride, phosphorous trichloride, sulfur oxychloride, antimony, arsenic, chlorides and oxychlorides.
8. **(original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the step of forming the preform body includes doping the first portion with germanium.
9. **(original)** The method of claim 8, further including:
 applying heat to the first portion prior to forming the second portion, thereby causing at least a portion of the first portion to have a greater density than the second portion.
10. **(original)** The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the first portion with a flame generated utilizing at least one fuel selected from a group including oxygen, methane and oxygen, carbon monoxide and oxygen, deuterium, and hydrogen.
11. **(original)** The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the first portion with a CO₂ laser.
12. **(original)** The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the first portion with a plasma torch.
13. **(original)** The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step is accomplished within the range of from about 1500°C to about 1700°C.

14. **(original)** The method of claim 9 wherein the heat applying step includes forming a glass barrier between the first portion and the second portion.
15. **(original)** The method of claim 9 further including:
drying the first and second portions with a drying agent.
16. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 15 wherein the drying step includes selecting the drying agent from a group including chlorine, germanium chloride, germanium tetrachloride, silicon tetrachloride, and combinations thereof.
17. **(original)** The method of claim 15 further including:
partially sintering the first and second portions prior to the stripping step.
18. **(original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent that includes an element selected from a group consisting of VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.
19. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming the preform body includes doping the first portion with germanium.
20. **(original)** The method of claim 1, further including:
applying heat to the first portion prior to forming the second portion, thereby causing at least a portion of the first portion to have a greater density than the second portion.
21. **(original)** The method of claim 20, wherein the heat applying step includes forming a glass barrier between the first portion and the second portion.

22. **(original)** The method of claim 21, further including:
drying the first and second portions with a drying agent.
23. **(original)** The method of claim 22, further including:
partially sintering the first and second portions prior to the stripping step.
24. **(original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the stripping step includes stripping nearly
all of the dopant from a section of the second portion.
25. **(original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of stripping includes stripping
substantially all migrated dopant from an outer section of the second portion.
26. **(original)** A method of manufacturing an optical fiber preform, comprising:
forming a preform including a moat and radial portion abutting the moat, wherein the
moat and the radial portion include a fluorine dopant; and
stripping substantially all the fluorine dopant from the radial portion.
27. **(original)** The method of claim 26 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a
stripping agent.
28. **(original)** The method of claim 27 wherein the stripping agent comprises a compound
including an element selected from a group including VA and VIA in the periodic table of
elements.

29. **(original)** The method of claim 28 wherein the stripping agent includes selecting the stripping agent from a group including phosphorous oxychloride, phosphorous trichloride, sulfur oxychloride, antimony, arsenic, chlorides and oxychlorides.
30. **(original)** The method of claim 29 wherein the preform forming step includes forming the preform to include a core region surrounded by the moat.
31. **(original)** The method of claim 30, further including:
 applying heat to the core region prior to forming the moat, thereby causing the core region to have at least a portion exhibiting a greater density than the moat.
32. **(original)** The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the core region with a flame generated utilizing at least one fuel selected from a group including oxygen, methane and oxygen, carbon monoxide and oxygen, deuterium, and hydrogen.
33. **(original)** The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the core region with a CO₂ laser.
34. **(original)** The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes heating the core region with a plasma torch.
35. **(original)** The method of claim 31 wherein the heat applying step includes forming a glass barrier between the core region and the moat.

36. **(original)** The method of claim 31, further including:
drying the preform body with a drying agent.
37. **(original)** The method of claim 36 wherein the drying step includes selecting the drying agent from a group including chlorine, germanium chloride, germanium tetrachloride, silicate tetrachloride, and combinations thereof.
38. **(original)** The method of claim 31, further including:
partially sintering the preform prior to the stripping step.
39. **(original)** The method of claim 26 wherein the step of stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent comprising a compound including an element selected from a group including VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.
40. **(original)** The method of claim 26 wherein the preform body forming step includes forming the preform body to include a core region surrounded by the moat.
41. **(original)** The method of claim 40, further including:
applying heat to the core region prior to forming the moat, thereby causing the core region to have at least a portion exhibiting a greater density than the moat.
42. **(original)** The method of claim 41, further including:
drying the preform body with a drying agent.

43. **(original)** The method of claim 42, further including:
 partially sintering the preform body prior to the stripping step.
44. **(original)** The method of claim 26 wherein the dopant in the radial portion is
 provided as a result of migration of the dopant from the moat.
45. **(new)** A method of manufacturing an optical waveguide preform, comprising:
 forming a preform including a first portion and a second portion, the second portion
 including a fluorine dopant therein, and wherein the first portion exhibits a density greater
 than the second portion; and
 stripping the dopant from at least a section of the second portion wherein the step of
 stripping is accomplished by a stripping agent comprising a compound including an element
 selected from a group consisting of VA and VIA in the periodic table of elements.